**Resilience iCAP Team November Meeting Agenda**

November 9th

11:00 – 12:00 PMvia Zoom:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82458154662?pwd=U1N1UTAyQk5qYW9abTczU1k3TVBkUT09>

*Members in attendance: Stacy Gloss, Warren Lavey, Linda Derhak, Lacey Rains Lowe, Jennifer Fraterrigo, Caitlin Kelly, Constance Brown, Meredith Moore, Scott Tess, Ella Zervakis, Asli Topuzlu*

*Absent members: Morgan White, Nichole Millage, Katie Simpson, Lisa Merrifield, Helen Anil*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome! - Asli (2 minutes)
2. Urbana, Champaign, and Savoy resilience presentations - Scott, Nichole/Lacy, and Katie (12 minutes)
   * Each city representative will present resilience challenge(s) at their communities
   * Presentations will be on one-slide under 4 minutes
   * Slides will address the following:
     + Problem statement: What is the resilience challenge that needs to be solved?
     + What factors are contributing to the resilience challenge?
     + In keeping with the idea that those closest to a problem are most likely to be able to have knowledge and information to solve the problem, how does the presenter plan or propose to solve the resilience challenge?
3. Facilitated discussion on presented resilience challenges (15 minutes per each issue) – everyone

Meeting Notes

* Champaign
  + City wants to work on around coordinated urban biodiversity master plan (iCAP Objective 8.1)
  + Another interest
    - Landscape requirements for buildings, based on the landscape standards, are outdated for Champaign
    - How can the city infuse sustainability to the mixed building use ordinance from a sustainability standpoint at Champaign
      * Stormwater management standpoint, biodiversity standpoint (as opposed to just screening of uses)
      * Implementing this to the city’s existing sustainability plan
        + Narrowing down the sustainability plan to topicals - particularly around the issue of landscaping

Bringing sustainability focuses to landscaping codes (not a top topic for landscaping requirements) – partnering with Urbana and Savoy

* + - * + Where does the political will lie? What would be supported by the Champaign Council?
  + What can university do to help Champaign in a specific area of landscaping, building codes or other aspects of sustainability planning?
    - Champaign adopts an international building code, also has Illinois Energy Conservation code (has requirements around reducing energy consumption) and fire code – mandated and adopted, not a lot of local control, difficult to change
    - Landscaping code – easiest place to begin
      * All local control – opportunity to make gains on sustainability
      * Incorporating native and pollinator-supporting plants, green infrastructure for stormwater management development
      * How can we look through or compare the landscaping ordinances of other communities with a sustainability focus? What are those sustainability impacts that they are achieving? (Communities that have sustainability background and credibility) – **can use the help of faculty and students**
        + i.e., communities planting plants with a better ordinance
        + Quantifying the sustainability benefits is important!! – impactful for the council to approve and value the efforts
  + At Champaign, in the zoning ordinance, every property is required a certain type of landscaping - around parking requirements and screening between uses
  + There is a masterplan for a certain area - additional landscaping requirements for building materials, their placement, etc. and requirements around stormwater management
    - Challenges: stormwater utility fees, stormwater management problems, additional expense on building developments (a baseline)
      * There are a lot of areas in the city that needs retrofits (?) for stormwater management
  + The city values biodiversity and horticulture (especially planting pollinator-supporting plants!) but don’t have a policy about it
    - What are the easy gains within this requirement system that would be palatable? Are people still meeting the requirements?
  + **Creating a policy or updating sustainability plan on landscaping to develop stormwater management and/or strengthening biodiversity/planting can be good recommendation ideas!**
* [Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide - White House Guidance](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Nature-Based-Solutions-Resource-Guide-2022.pdf)
  + Assessing benefits of native plantings and other sustainable efforts
  + Ongoing efforts on how to give cities and federal agencies tools to assess sustainability options and present a more complete view of the benefits
* Savoy
  + Stormwater management is a big issue for this city too **(can develop a stormwater management or landscaping recommendation both for Champaign and Savoy!)**
  + Problem statement: The Village is evaluating its stormwater management systems. What best practices can the Village integrate into its stormwater requirements to reduce the negative impacts of future growth and additional impervious surfaces on stormwater infrastructure and systems?
  + What factors are contributing to the resilience challenge: The Village’s current stormwater management practices are inadequate for future growth, and flooding is becoming more common with the changing climate.
  + Approach: Evaluate existing infrastructure, create a stormwater management plan that targets interventions, update building, zoning, and subdivision requirements to require storm water management and to include best practices in landscaping and design to mitigate negative impacts of flooding on current and new development.
    - City will focus on updating zoning and building codes which will include overhauling stormwater management, landscaping, green infrastructure + bringing policies about these with the collaboration of other communities (Urbana and Champaign)
      * A nice resource from Caitlin about green infrastructure: <https://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/our-work/focus-areas/coastal-communities/green-infrastructure/>
* What can we do for both Champaign and Savoy having landscaping, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and biodiversity issues
  + What are some of the minimum sustainability requirements that can be implemented to landscape codes
  + A sense of best practices and what works for other communities – can be a great help!
    - Hiring student interns to do a general comparison research
      * Tasking students to gather some case analysis, having faculty helping to think through
    - Implement this as a Capstone project for the students in the sustainability minor
  + Extension can help Lisa Merrifield and Gabe about this
    - They are working on the Biodiversity Plan – we can make sure that this plan at least meets some of the needs that are being stated
      * **Connecting Champaign and Savoy representatives with the extension and have a further discussion about this can be helpful**
* Urbana
  + Problem statement: The City is building two new Fire Stations. What technical and financial model can the City use to establish emergency backup power from solar+battery without putting the capital costs in the new construction project?
  + What factors are contributing to the resilience challenge: Its advantageous for emergency services to always have power. The project will be over budget before solar or battery is considered.
  + Approach: Collect case studies for technical and financial models that finance solar+battery installations.
    - City wants to install solar+battery as a power backup but needs a **financial model** to understand how to install this **without adding any additional costs to the project** (fire stations are already over the budget!)
      * Solar is not big of a problem, battery is the case
        + how do we get the cost of the battery backup out of the project cost??
  + Can get some people at the university to think through this battery cost issue
    - people from mechanical and electrical engineering departments, GIES college for financial modeling??
    - Can hire/task students about researching facilities with similar models
    - Can look for funding for the battery backup??